

1 Oct 2003

REGULATORY BRANCH MEMORANDUM 2003-05

SUBJECT: Wetland Delineation Verifications

1. Purpose. To establish policy for reviewing and accepting wetland delineations conducted by applicants or their agents.

2. Applicability. This applies to all wetland delineations submitted to the Sacramento District for verification.

3. References.

a. Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, January 1987.

b. Regulatory Guidance Letter, 88-5, 16 May 1988.

c. Regulatory Guidance Letters, 90-6, 14 Aug 1990, and 94-01, 23 May 1994.

d. Sacramento District Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Preliminary Wetland Delineation, 30 Nov 2001 (as amended).

4. Background. Applicants typically hire environmental consultants to perform wetland delineations for them. To ensure the consistency, accuracy and sufficiency of data to document the basis for the delineation, it is important that minimum information and standards are established and enforced. Ensuring compliance with these items is also key to reviewing and approving wetland delineations in a timely manner.

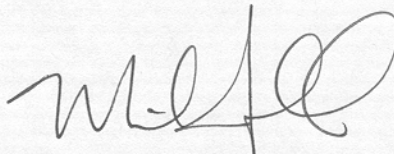
5. Policy.

a. Every wetland delineation submitted by an applicant or agent will be reviewed to ensure it complies with the current Sacramento District Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Preliminary Wetland Delineation.

b. Every wetland delineation submitted by an applicant or agent will be reviewed to ensure it complies with the principles set forth in the Corps' wetland delineation manual and are otherwise correct and accurate.

c. Manpower constraints allowing, wetland delineations submitted by an applicant or agent will be field verified by Regulatory staff. A wetland delineation verification may be conducted without a site visit (aka "Desk JD") when the subject site is small, contains only wetland areas of limited size, and/or supports wetlands of low functions and values. In such cases, there is little risk of major harm to the aquatic ecosystem due to errors associated with the wetland delineation.

d. If a wetland delineation does not comply with either the Minimum Standards or Corps manual, the applicant or agent will be notified by the District of any shortcomings in a timely manner. It is then incumbent on the applicant or agent to revise the delineation and resubmit it to the District for verification.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Rosenau', with a stylized, cursive script.

For ANDREW J. ROSENAU
Chief, Regulatory Branch